



**US Army Corps  
Of Engineers**  
Charleston District

# News Release

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## Corps of Engineers Christens New Boat Crucial to Harbor Operations

**August 4, 2006**

CHARLESTON, S.C. -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District christened their new survey boat, *The Evans* today on the public pier at Brittlebank Park in Charleston.

The Evans will become the Corps' workhorse for conducting hydrographic surveys in Charleston, Georgetown and Port Royal harbors, and other navigable waters throughout the Charleston District. Surveys are used to ensure correct depths for navigable channels, which is critical for ships coming in and out of our ports and harbors. Typically, the vessel will be in operation approximately 200 days per year. During the lifetime of this survey vessel, it will be involved in hundreds of surveys collecting data for channel maintenance, periodic inspections, Environmental Management Program projects, and regulatory inspections of harbors and waterways.

The vessel was built by SeaArk Marine, Inc. of Monticello, Arkansas, and cost approximately \$500,000 to build. It is assigned to the Navigation Survey Branch of the Charleston District. The Evans is 42 feet long with a draft of four feet and is powered by twin 460-horsepower Cummins diesels, all electronically controlled.

The vessel is one of the most modern, unique and sophisticated hydro-survey equipped boats in the country. The vessel has a modern fathometer and is equipped with a GPS tracking system. The vessel is also capable of performing real time tide data information gathering.

"We have the responsibility for keeping the harbors clear and the channels open for all the shipping for South Carolina ports, which is one of the main economic engines of the state," said Gene Heiselman, Captain of the Evans. "This boat should serve the District well for close to two decades."

The vessel was named in honor of John "Jack" Cecil Evans, a former Corps employee and boat Captain, who was often referred to as "Captain Jack". Approximately 40 friends and family members from across the country attended the event along with Corps employees and local officials.